

JULY 2, 2010

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES



Halo Alo

DHS Keeps OCS Core Services Afloat

OCS gladly announces the execution of a state-to-state contract of funds to OCS from the Department of Human Services for Fiscal Year 2011. The Honorable Lillian Kohler signed a Memorandum of Agreement to release \$500,000 in TANF monies to OCS.

A big Mahalo to Pankaj Bhanot, Department of Human Services' Benefit, Employment, and Support Services Division (DHS-BESSD) Administrator who advocated on behalf of OCS and its service providers. These much needed funds will help maintain employment core service programs.

USDOE Monitors WAP ARRA

The week of June 14th, 2010 marked Federal officials' monitoring of OCS' Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) contracts. These encompass the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) contracts, Supplement for Energy Programs (SEP) contracts, and Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant (EECBG) contracts. This monitoring was necessary to ensuring compliance with Federal rules and regulations and was required for the State to receive the second half of the remaining contract monies,

totaling about \$2 million. OCS Program Specialist En Young concurrently monitored the contracts with Ms. Carole Gates, United States Department of Energy (USDOE) Program Manager.

Honolulu Community Action Program (HCAP) and Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Council (HCEOC), were chosen for monitoring by Carole Gates.

In order to release the second half of the \$4 million, the Community Action Agencies

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Senior Farmer's Market Still Accepting Eligible Candidates

The Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP), is back for the 2010 harvest season and still has available slots for seniors on and the Island of Hawaii.

On Oahu, \$5 vouchers, up to a total of \$50 annually are made available for qualified seniors. The Hawaii Foodbank, The Food Basket, Inc. and their partners administer the program and issue the vouchers. Information on the 2010 People's Open Market Schedule is available on the Hawaii Foodbank Hotline at (808) 954-7889 or at their website at:

www.hawaiifoodbank.org/pdf/AllOpenMarketSchedule.pdf

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(CAAs) must collectively meet 30% of their targeted outcomes. For Hawaii, this means 202 weatherized homes. OCS monitoring duties include a visual inspection of 10% of the weatherized units.

The biggest challenge for WAP is the increase in magnitude of the program from \$200,000 to \$4million, which continues to be a challenge for both the service providers as well as OCS. Stringent Federal regulations and guidelines, crossovers with similar and usually overlapping activities, and unfamiliar weatherization measures pose some of the greatest challenges. The Community Action Agencies, Dowling Company and the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA) participate in weekly updates.

OCS would like to thank all our service providers for stepping up to the new challenges and for keeping pace with the changing WAP program.

OCS Budget Revisions FY11

It is with heartfelt sadness and deep regret that we announce the FY 2011 Purchase of Services Program Budget Cuts. In recent months, DLIR-OCS did its best to keep service providers informed of then pending FY 2011 budget reductions through personal conversations and via this newsletter.

The OCS has diligently sought alternative funding sources to enable the continuation of all our contracts with you. We know it is already late, but we just recently confirmed that no additional funds would be available to DLIR-OCS for FY 2011. We apologize for any inconveniences, but we needed to explore all options prior to terminating the following programs.

The following list of programs will no longer be funded by DLIR-OCS as of July 11, 2010:

Child Care for Head Start Parents;

Transportation Services for Low-Income Persons;
Food Distribution for Low Income Persons;
Youth Services for Immigrants; and
Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities (PAPD) Program

Return to pre-recession 2008 State revenue levels will not likely occur until 2012 at the earliest and only if Council of Revenue projections with positive gains prevail. The continued economic challenge means the State cannot maintain its current level of health and human services. Cost savings to the State general funds must be immediate, meaningful and realistic. Our economic recovery is still in its infant stages. We expect for awhile that it will be a tough, long drawn-out battle with moderate job growth.

Earlier this year, even DLIR-OCS reduced staff from 16 to six members. Over the years, we have weathered past budget restrictions and reductions finding innovative ways to maintain programs. During the 2010 legislative session, legislative adjustments further reduced the OCS Purchase of Services Program budget by \$700,000. Now, there is no place left to trim the budget and there are no additional monies available to maintain programs at the current level. Presently, DLIR-OCS was left with no other option than to reduce programs.

Thanks to all of our service providers who have supported DLIR-OCS over the years especially through these tough economic times. Thank you for your years of committed service to the community and the State of Hawaii.

(Senior Farmer's Market, continued from Page 1)

The program, which started June 1, 2010, supports local farmers and promotes local commerce and will operate until October 31, 2010. Participating farmer's markets feature locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables.